

## REPORT ON INFORMATION COLLECTED CONCERNING APPLICANT

Under section 60835 of title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, the Bureau of State Audits is responsible for collecting information concerning applicants for the Citizens Redistricting Commission that is needed by the Applicant Review Panel to perform its responsibilities. This is a report by Bureau staff in compliance with that responsibility.

Name of Applicant: Charles E. Starr.

Information: Bureau staff obtained additional information from Applicant regarding his service on an advisory board for the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District. Applicant reported that he volunteered to serve on the advisory board, and has served on the advisory board for the past 12 to 18 months. Due to several seats on the governing board of the district being up for election in November 2010, the role of the advisory board has not been defined well. The advisory board has responded to questions arising from public comment. As an example, the district was considering selling water outside of the district to fund necessary infrastructure. The advisory board evaluated the positive and negative aspects of taking this action..

Applicant was politically active in supporting Measure C, which was a measure on the November 2009 ballot to permit the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District to impose and collect from groundwater users a fee that would be used to repair infrastructure, help create water delivery systems, and recharge the area's diminished groundwater basin. The measure did not pass..

Bureau staff contacted Aaron Lange, the author of one of Applicant's letters of recommendation, to confirm the information provided in the letter and receive any additional information that may be relevant. Mr. Lange confirmed the information in the letter and added that Applicant works as a consultant for Mr. Lange's vineyard, and both men serve on the Lodi Woodbridge Wine Grape Commission. Applicant recently was named as chairperson of the commission. Mr. Lange stressed that Applicant has a reputation in the local area of being a valuable contributor at meetings. Mr. Lange said, "When Charlie speaks, you listen." Mr. Lange observed that Applicant may not be the most talkative person in a meeting but if he has something to add that is important or intelligent, he will speak up. Mr. Lange added, "You can appreciate his directness.".

Staff asked Applicant about his father's occupation, Applicant stated in the "Family Information" section of the supplemental application that his father's occupation is "farmer," but a letter of recommendation from Joe Valente states that Applicant's father is a "firefighter." Applicant responded that his father is a retired firefighter who now farms..

Staff asked Applicant about an apparent discrepancy between what he stated in the “Employment History” section of the supplemental application and what he stated on the Form 700 regarding his employment. On the application, Application stated that he is employed by Viticultural Services, while on Schedule C of the Form 700 he stated that he receives income from selling grapes and from working as an employee of his farming business. Applicant responded that did not understand he should list Viticultural Services as a source of income on on Schedule C. He therefore will submit an amended Schedule C to disclose Viticultural Services as a source of income. Applicant stated that he did not list his farm as his employer on the supplemental application because he receives so little income from the farm. On Schedule C, Applicant reported that he received between \$10,000 and \$100,000 in gross income from selling grapes and between \$10,000 and \$100,000 in gross income as an employee of his farming business.

Staff asked Applicant about the possibility that he had not disclosed his in-laws in the “Family Information” section of the supplemental application. Applicant acknowledged that did not list his wife’s siblings and their spouses on the supplemental application, but he will submit an amendment to the application to include information about them.

Recommendation: None

Name and title of person submitting response: Steven Benito Russo, Chief of Investigations

Response Date: August 12, 2010